

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/081,120

Examiner

Frantz F. Jules

Applicant(s)

FORBES, JAMES W.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/02/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 13-21, 24, 28, 29, 32-34, 41-45 and 62-64, 66-95.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 05/19/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael H. Minns on 05/18/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 96-100 have been cancelled from the application.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Chi and Ferris et al disclose various types of articulated rail road freight car having releasable couplers mounted at either end thereof said articulated rail road freight car being supported by a plurality of pivotally mounted railcar trucks, each or said pivotally mounted trucks, having spaced apart axles, and said articulated rail road freight car having at least first and second rail car units connected at a cantilevered articulation through which vertical shear loads are passed between said first and second rail car units. The first and second rail car units comprising side bearing arms. Saxton et al disclose an articulated auto-rack car comprising a plurality of articulated railroad freight cars car units, a plurality of intermediate bridge plates that allow vehicles to be conducted between the railcars. Biegel discloses a railroad freight car comprising a plurality of articulated well car units with brake system which applies less braking when empty than when loaded. However, none of the references of record suggests an

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articulated rail road car having a plurality of rail car units comprising an articulation connection operable to pass vertical shear load from second rail car unit to first rail car unit, wherein a first rail car truck is located closer to the articulation connection than any other of the rail car trucks in the manner defined in the instant claims 1, 6, 28, 41, 66 and 72 and in combination with other limitations of the claims. Also, none of the references of record suggests an articulated railroad freight car comprising a three pack rail road car having a two-truck middle unit and a pair of single truck end units, wherein each of said rail car unit has mutually engaging side bearing arms in the manner defined in the instant claim 62 and in combination with other limitations of the claim. Therefore, claims 2-5, 7, 13-21, 24, 29, 32-34, 42-45, 63-64, 67-71, 72-82, 89-95 depending therefrom, are considered to be allowable.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz F. Jules whose telephone number is (703) 272-6681. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Morano can be reached on (703) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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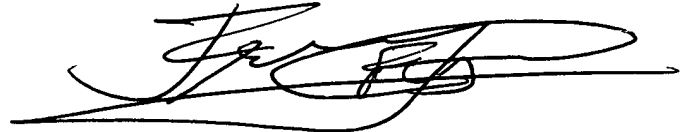
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frantz F. Jules
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

FFJ

May 20, 2005

FRANTZ F. JULES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frantz F. Jules', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.